

## A new species of *Pseudocalyx* (*Acanthaceae*) from Gabon

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**Summary** : *Pseudocalyx macrophyllus* McPherson & Louis, *sp. nov.*, is described and compared with the other members of the genus.

**Résumé** : *Pseudocalyx macrophyllus* McPherson & Louis, *sp. nov.*, est décrit et comparé aux autres membres du genre.

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Until recently *Pseudocalyx* was thought to be represented in Gabon by a single species, *P. aurantiacus* Benoist (HEINE, 1966). However, a collection made in the forest of central Gabon in 1989, although differing in several ways from *P. aurantiacus*, nevertheless exhibits the lianescent habit, the stellate pubescence, the foliaceous bracts, the small calyx, the bilocular anthers opening by subterminal pores, the absence of a staminode, the ovary of two fertile locules each containing two collateral ovules, and the capsular fruit characterizing the genus (BENOIST, 1944). None of the four other species currently recognized from Africa and Madagascar better matches the recent collection. It is therefore described here as a new species, to be recognized by its large leaves and compound terminal inflorescence, as well as by the abundance of its both sessile and stalked stellate pubescence.

### ***Pseudocalyx macrophyllus* McPherson & Louis, *sp. nov.***

*Species pubescentia abundantis pilorum stellatorum et sessilium et stipitatorum, foliis grandibus (12-29 × 6.5-12.5 cm), corollis parvis (9-12 mm), et inflorescentia longa terminali composita a congeneribus diversa.*

**TYPE** : *McPherson 13826*, Gabon, province of Ogooué-Ivindo, Réserve de la Lopé, south of Ayem, chantier SOFORGA, forest ca. 200 m, 30 March 1989 (holo-, MO ; iso-, LBV, P, and nine others to be distributed to CAS, K, US, WAG, *inter alia*).

Woody vine ; young stems four-sided, densely brown-pubescent with both stalked and sessile stellate hairs (some long, simple hairs also present especially near the nodes), the longest hairs attaining 2 mm ; older stems glabrescent. Leaves opposite ; blades obovate or oblong, 12-29 cm long, 6.5-12.5 cm wide (excluding the leaves subtending flowers) ; base obtuse to shallowly cordate ; apex acute, shortly acuminate or subapiculate ; margin entire ; texture



D. Stoez 8' 1" 1'

Fig. 1. — *Pseudocalyx macrophyllus* McPherson & Louis : 1, flowering branch  $\times 0.55$ ; 1', and 1'', stalked stellate hairs  $\times 14$ ; 2, large leaf  $\times 0.3$ ; 3, corolla  $\times 1.4$ ; 4, corolla, opened and spread  $\times 2.2$ ; 5, stamen, adaxial surface and profile  $\times 3.3$ ; 6, calyx, disc, and pistil  $\times 3.3$ ; 7, floral bract, adaxial surface  $\times 1.7$ ; 8, fruit, opened along line of dehiscence  $\times 1.7$ ; 8', sessile stellate hair  $\times 14$ . (McPherson 13826).

foliaceous ; midrib slightly raised adaxially, strongly raised abaxially ; secondary veins 8-10 on each side of the midrib ; surfaces somewhat bicoloured, pubescent with both stalked and sessile stellate hairs while young, later glabrescent, some hairs usually persisting in sheltered places along the midrib abaxially ; petiole 0.3-2.6 cm long, pubescent like the stem at first, glabrescent. Flowers borne in fascicles of 2-4 per axil (hence 4-8 per node), the fascicles borne in the axils of progressively reduced leaves along the terminal 16-40 cm of some branches, the lowest nodes of these compound inflorescences sometimes producing flower-bearing branches themselves ; the proximal bract-like leaves up to 6 cm × 2.5 cm, densely brown-pubescent like the young leaves ; pedicels 2-4.2 cm long, densely pubescent with relatively short hairs ; floral bracts two, ovate, 1-1.6 cm × 0.8-1.2 cm, obtuse at the apex, densely pubescent abaxially with both sessile and stalked stellate hairs, densely pubescent over most of the adaxial surface with long, apically-directed sessile, stellate hairs, the hairs near the margin much smaller and forming a narrow band of puberulence. Calyx shallowly and indistinctly 5-lobed, 1 mm high, the margin erose on drying, pubescent abaxially with sessile stellate hairs, glabrous adaxially. Corolla bilaterally symmetrical, 9-12 mm long, slightly yellowish white with two pale red stripes on lowest lobe (this lobe 4-5.5 mm × 2-4 mm, the four upper lobes 3-5 mm × 2.5-4 mm), partially pubescent abaxially with long simple and sessile-stellate hairs, pubescent adaxially principally on the two uppermost lobes and the adjacent portions of the tube with long, basally-directed hairs. Stamens 4, staminode absent ; anthers bilocular, sessile, 5 mm, opening by a subterminal introrse pore, the thecae bearing stiff papillae adaxially. Disc annular, nearly equalling the calyx, glabrous. Ovary 1.5 mm high, glabrous, bilocular, the ovules 2 and collateral in each locule ; style 7-8 mm, glabrous ; stigma slightly swollen and obscurely 2-lobed. Fruit capsular, ca. 1.8 × 1 cm (immature), densely pubescent with sessile stellate hairs, 2-locular, the (immature) seeds puberulent. — Fig. 1.

#### LITERATURE CITED

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